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Agenda item 104

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Victoria SANDRU (Romania)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with item 103 entitled "Advancement of women" at its 13th to 18th and 35th meetings, on 24, 25 and 28 to 30 October and on 13 November 1996. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/51/SR.13-18 and 35).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/51/322);

(b) Letter dated 27 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/90);

(c) Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/210);

(d) Letter dated 4 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/471);

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(e) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/473-S/1996/839).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 24 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat (see A/C.3/51/SR.13).

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Acting Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/51/SR.13).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/51/L.29

6. At the 35th meeting, on 13 November, the Chairperson introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" (A/C.3/51/L.29), which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995 and 50/203 of 22 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and 1996/34 of 25 July 1996 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the previous World Conferences on Women, held at Mexico City in 1975,[1] at Copenhagen in 1980[2] and at Nairobi in 1985,[3]

Recognizing the significance of the outcome of the Conference to make a real change for the empowerment of women and thus to the fulfilment of the goals adopted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[4]

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration[5] and the Platform for Action,[6] adopted at the Conference, are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play,

Bearing in mind that promotion of international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community,

Recognizing also the important role played by States, the United Nations, the regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the preparatory process of the Conference and the importance of their involvement in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

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[1] See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

[2] See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).

[3] See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A.

[5] A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

Taking into account the fact that the follow-up to the Conference should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, will constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon and should therefore be strengthened,

Also reaffirming that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[7]

2. Takes note of initiatives and actions taken by Governments and the international community towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference;

3. Calls once again upon States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform;

4. Welcomes the contribution of the report of the Secretary-General to translating the concept of mainstreaming into practical action, including the ongoing work to develop methodologies to facilitate the application of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes throughout the United Nations system;

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[7] A/51/322.

5. Calls for intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity, and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

6. Stresses that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

7. Calls upon States, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

8. Welcomes the progress made by Governments so far towards meeting the commitment to developing, by 1996, comprehensive implementation strategies or plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to undertake efforts in this regard, in order to implement fully the Platform for Action;

9. Welcomes the contribution made to the elaboration of guidelines for national strategies or plans of action by regional and subregional conferences on the implementation of the Platform for Action, such as the elaboration of a model national action plan by the subregional conference held at Bucharest in September 1996, which may assist other Governments, too, in meeting this commitment, and in this respect encourages the support of, inter alia, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat;

10. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and interministerial procedures and staffing, and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes, so as to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and takes note of regional initiatives for strengthening national machineries;

11. Encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

12. Calls upon Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of other institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

13. Recognizes the importance attached to the regional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with

Governments, and the necessity of promoting cooperation among national Governments of the same region in this respect;

14. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions, in accordance with paragraph 302 of the Platform for Action,[6] and to consider, in this context, how best to integrate the inputs by the regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action;

15. Calls upon States to take action to fulfil the commitments made at the Conference for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

16. Invites the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

17. Recognizes that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

18. Calls upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analysis in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

19. Stresses that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

20. Welcomes the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the discussion on the eradication of poverty in the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, in relation to mainstreaming a gender perspective in poverty eradication activities and the use of available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing towards the goals of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

21. Urges Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to empower women through concrete actions, policies and programmes, including integration of gender perspectives;

22. Requests Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal access to education, training, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international community to

support national efforts towards the advancement of women in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries;

23. Reaffirms that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

24. Reaffirms also that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

25. Calls upon those States committed to the 20:20 initiative to integrate a gender perspective fully into its implementation, as referred to in paragraph 358 of the Platform for Action;

26. Recognizes that the creation of an enabling environment, at the national and international levels, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

27. Calls upon Member States to commit themselves to gender balance, inter alia, through the creation of special mechanisms, in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as appropriate, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations, notably by presenting and promoting more women candidates;

28. Also calls upon Member States to aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums;

29. Reaffirms that the implementation of the Platform for Action will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to this end, recognizes that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice;

30. Stresses, in relation to the United Nations, that the Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming;

31. Also stresses that the means of implementation of the Platform for Action should include mainstreaming a gender perspective in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

32. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 and

its decision to undertake, in 1998, a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the revised plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system;

33. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the United Nations system, and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session, for comments;

34. Reiterates the need for an enhanced framework for international cooperation for gender-related issues in the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the results of global United Nations summits and conferences;

35. Welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote its 1997 coordination segment to mainstreaming a gender perspective, and reiterates its invitation to the Council to consider devoting one high-level segment and one operational segment to the advancement of women and implementation of the Platform for Action, before the year 2000, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and all other functional commissions of the Council and the need for a system-wide approach to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

36. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and notes the work done by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action;

37. Welcomes that the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality will serve as a forum for information exchange and the promotion of programme coordination and collaborative arrangements among organizations of the system, and will be responsible for addressing on a comprehensive system-wide basis all aspects of the implementation of the Platform for Action and gender-related recommendations emanating from other recent international conferences within the purview of the United Nations system;

38. Welcomes developments in coordination at the inter-agency level, including work done by the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality expected to move forward the conceptual discussion of mainstreaming, and stresses the need for further work to mainstream a gender perspective into the day-to-day work of United Nations staff throughout the system, and in intergovernmental action beyond the social sectors and operational activities;

39. Also welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council strengthens the mandate and the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women and endorses the Commission's multi-year work programme for the period 1996-2000, and also welcomes Commission on the Status of Women

agreed conclusions 1996/1 of March 1996 on the Commission's methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action;[8]

40. Invites once again all other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective work;

41. Welcomes the measures taken by the Secretary-General to date to ensure coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, including training, in accordance with paragraph 326 of the Platform for Action;

42. Requests the Secretary-General to present action-oriented recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment on means to enhance system-wide coordination on gender issues and to mainstream a gender perspective throughout the United Nations system;

43. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as widely as possible, including to the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

44. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

45. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to ensure that the resident coordinators fully incorporate a gender perspective in integrating the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

46. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to amend its reporting guidelines in line with the recommendations of paragraph 323 of the Platform for Action to enable it to consider reports submitted by States parties, and invites States parties to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in their reports;

47. Notes the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

48. Commends the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the issues addressing the process of the

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[8] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6 (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C.1.

economic and political empowerment of women, statistics and indicators in gender issues, inter alia, and requests the Institute to incorporate in its biennial work programme appropriate actions in order to carry out research and training components relevant to the twelve critical areas of concern and the implementation of the Platform for Action, within its area of expertise;

49. Also commends the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in providing a strategic and focused response to the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action through its advocacy and operational activities in support of women's economic and political empowerment, and encourages the Fund to provide technical support to operationalize the Platform for Action at the national level through, inter alia, the resident coordinator system, and taking into account decision 1996/43 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

50. Encourages the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to strengthen their cooperation and coordination;

51. Encourages international financial institutions to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and thus contribute to sustainable development;

52. Invites the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

53. Decides to appraise the progress on an annual basis and to retain in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", with a view to assessing, in the year 2000, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action in an appropriate forum;

54. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements, and measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Victoria SANDRU (Romania)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 19th to 23rd, 27th, 29th, 31st, 35th, 38th and 40th meetings, on 31 October, 1, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 13 to 15 November 1996. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/51/SR.19-23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 38 and 40).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its forty-seventh session (A/51/12/Add.1);

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/51/12).

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/51/329);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements (A/51/341);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/51/367);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order (A/51/454);

(g) Letter dated 10 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/206-S/1996/539).

4. At the 19th meeting, on 31 October, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Director of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs made introductory statements (see A/C.3/51/SR.19).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.12 and Rev.1

5. At the 29th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States" (A/C.3/51/L.12), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994 and, in particular, 50/151 of 21 December 1995, in which it requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in close consultation with concerned States and in coordination with relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, to convene in 1996 a regional conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion of the Conference held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996,

"Being aware that involuntary, mass displacement, in addition to the human suffering involved, imposes significant economic and social burdens and may affect security and stability at the regional level,

"Reaffirming the view of the Conference that, while the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problem lies with the affected countries themselves, the serious challenges cannot be met by the limited resources and experience of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States individually,

"Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference[2] can be ensured only through coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all participating States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

"Welcoming the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation that made the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself a success,

"Noting the 1951 Convention[3] and the 1967 Protocol[4] relating to the Status of Refugees,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

"2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Switzerland and other host States that made it possible to convene the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States and a series of preparatory meetings, as well as those States that made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

"3. Endorses the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference on 31 May 1996;[2]

"4. Welcomes the innovative approach and close cooperation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in initiating and supporting a multilateral constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned that has brought agreement on guidelines for practical action, taking into account internationally recognized norms and standards;

"5. Expresses its satisfaction with the work of the Conference, which laid down a solid foundation for further action by the countries concerned and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

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[2] A/51/341, annex.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[5] A/51/341.

"6. Confirms the views of the Conference on the urgency of addressing the problems of those displaced, of implementing measures to prevent situations leading to further involuntary population displacement and of effectively managing other types of migratory flows in the region;

"7. Urges all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

"8. Calls upon the Governments of the countries concerned to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action and to ensuring progress in its implementation;

"9. Recognizes that implementation of the Programme of Action requires additional financial resources, and calls for effective international cooperation in order to assist the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of migration and related matters;

"10. Welcomes the readiness of States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

"11. Invites international financial and other institutions to contribute to financing projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"12. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to steer, in close coordination, the ongoing and future activities required to ensure progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"13. Calls upon all relevant United Nations organs, bodies and agencies to promote, within their respective mandates, the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"14. Recognizes the role to be played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action and encourages the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and international organizations to strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and to involve them actively in the Conference follow-up;

"15. Reaffirms the necessity to put in place an effective follow-up mechanism of the Conference;

"16. Greatly appreciates the initial steps undertaken by the High Commissioner in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"17. Welcomes the Joint Operational Strategy of the High Commissioner and the International Organization for Migration in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States for 1996-2000, which outlines the practical dimensions of implementing the results of the Conference;

"18. Emphasizes the necessity to fulfil the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

"19. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to include key elements of the Programme of Action in current and future projects of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

"20. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the measures taken and proposed and of progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

"21. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States'."

6. At the 40th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/51/L.12/Rev.1), submitted by Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out corrections to the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 6, the words "to tackle" were replaced with the words "to address";

(b) In operative paragraph 11, the words "in the spirit of" were replaced with the words "in a spirit of".

8. At the same meeting, before action was taken on the draft resolution, the representative of Ukraine made a statement (see A/C.3/51/SR.40).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.12/Rev.1, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution I).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Azerbaijan made a statement (see A/C.3/51/SR.40).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.13 and Rev.1

11. At the 31st meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/51/L.13) which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 50/149 of 21 December 1995,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[6] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[7]

"Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

"Welcoming the ongoing process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in some parts of Africa,

"Taking note of resolution CM/Res.1653 (LXIV) on refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,

"Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive both to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to solutions, especially voluntary repatriation,

"Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

"Noting with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes region and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[6] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[7]

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[6] A/51/367.

[7] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/51/12).

"2. Notes with concern that the effects of political instability, internal strife, human rights violations, poverty and natural disasters, such as drought, have led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

"3. Expresses deep concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for their security, their long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

"4. Expresses its appreciation and strong support for those African Governments and local populations which, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons;

"5. Expresses its concern at instances where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by the unlawful expulsion, refoulement, or threat to life, physical security, dignity and well-being of refugees;

"6. Commends the Governments concerned for their sacrifices in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation;

"7. Expresses its gratitude to the international community, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in particular, for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons as well as to the countries of asylum;

"8. Welcomes the strengthening of cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization of African Unity at all levels, and urges the two organizations, in conjunction with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase their efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation in a dignified and orderly manner, as well as addressing the root causes of the refugee problem and working out modalities for a lasting solution;

"9. Reiterates that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

"10. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other concerned entities to intensify their protection activities by, inter alia, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles and providing financial, technical and advisory services to

accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

"11. Appeals to Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

"12. Appeals to the international community to respond positively to the third country resettlement requests of African refugees in the spirit of burden sharing;

"13. Commends the Governments of the Great Lakes and West African regions and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the region;

"14. Encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

"15. Welcomes the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with host Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community in addressing the negative impacts of large-scale refugee influxes and concentrations on the environment and ecosystems of the asylum countries;

"16. Notes with satisfaction the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the cooperation and collaboration of many countries hosting refugees, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

"17. Expresses its concern about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep her programmes under review in those countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

"18. Urges the international community to honour existing commitments and to continue to make efforts to increase financial and other contributions for general refugee programmes to keep pace with refugee needs;

"19. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system on the basis of the experience of the emergency in the Great Lakes region, and to continue

to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and asylum countries until a permanent solution can be found;

"20. Calls upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

"21. Requests all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

"22. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

"23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, under the item entitled 'Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions', and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997."

12. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Cameroon orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, after the words "implications for", the word "their" was deleted; and after the word "security", the word "their" was deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 5, after the word "Expresses", the word "its" was deleted; and after the words "dignity and", the word "the" was inserted;

(c) In operative paragraph 8, after the word "agencies", the word "intergovernmental" was inserted;

(d) In operative paragraph 10, after the words "to intensify", the word "their" was deleted;

(e) In operative paragraph 11, after the words "United Nations", the word "intergovernmental" was inserted;

(f) In operative paragraph 12, after the words "spirit of", the words "solidarity and" were inserted;

(g) In operative paragraph 15, after the words "ecosystems of", the word "the" was deleted;

(h) In operative paragraph 18, after the words "keep pace with", the words "substantially increased" were inserted;

(i) In operative paragraph 19, after the word "countries", the words "in Africa" were inserted.

13. At the 40th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/51/L.13/Rev.1).

14. At the same meeting, before action was taken on the draft resolution, the representative of Cameroon made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States (see A/C.3/51/SR.40).

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.13/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.14

16. At the 27th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Poland, also on behalf of South Africa, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/51/L.14).

17. At the 31st meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.14 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution III).

18. At the same meeting, after the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/51/SR.31).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.15 and Rev.1

19. At the 29th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of Bangladesh, Burundi, Morocco, Pakistan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors" (A/C.3/51/L.15), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994 and 50/150 of 21 December 1995,

"Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

"Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable and at risk of neglect, violence, military recruitment, sexual assault and other abuses and therefore require special assistance and care,

"Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

"Noting the revised Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1994 and the development of an emergency kit to facilitate coordination and to enhance the quality of responses to the needs of unaccompanied minors by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations,

"Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors, and welcoming its effort in reunifying family members of refugees,

"Noting also the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

"Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[8] and the 1951 Convention[9] and the 1967 Protocol[10] relating to the Status of Refugees,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

"2. Expresses its deep concern at the continued plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and once again emphasizes the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

"3. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other relevant United Nations bodies to incorporate in their assistance programmes policies aimed at providing assistance to refugee families to prevent the separation of their members;

"4. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

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[8] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[9] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[10] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[11] A/51/341.

"5. Urges the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

"6. Condemns all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their recruitment in military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

"7. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

20. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Sudan orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, after the word "violence", the word "forced", was inserted;

(b) A new preambular paragraph was inserted after the seventh preambular paragraph reading:

"Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees towards the reunification of the family members of refugees";

(c) A new operative paragraph 3 was added reading:

"3. Expresses the hope that adequate resources will be provided for programmes of identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors";

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(d) New operative paragraph 4 (former operative paragraph 3) was revised to read as follows:

"4. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate into its programmes policies that aim to prevent refugee family separation";

(e) In new operative paragraph 7 (former operative paragraph 6), the word "forced" was inserted before the word "recruitment".

21. At the 35th meeting, on 13 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/51/L.15/Rev.1), submitted by the same sponsors as well as Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda and Zaire.

22. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan orally revised the draft resolution by adding the words "conscious of the importance of family unity" at the end of operative paragraph 4.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.15/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.16

24. At the 29th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Slovenia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Yemen, introduced a draft resolution entitled "New international humanitarian order" (A/C.3/51/L.16). Subsequently, France joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the words "including local and regional capacity-building to respond to humanitarian problems and the search for more effective measures to increase international cooperation in the humanitarian field" were added at the end of the paragraph;

(b) In operative paragraph 5, the words "in a comprehensive manner" were added after the words "in order to report".

26. At the 38th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Jordan further orally revised the draft resolution as follows: the sixth preambular paragraph was replaced with the following:

> "Bearing in mind the urgent need to ensure respect for and promotion of the principles and norms relating to humanitarian emergencies".

27. At the same meeting, before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/51/SR.38).

28. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.16, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.20

29. At the 27th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/51/L.20). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, France, the Dominican Republic, Malta, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

30. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Norway, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph was revised to read as follows:

"Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,"

"Paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered or lost their lives in the course of their duties, and emphasizing the urgent need for effective measures to ensure the security of staff engaged in humanitarian operations";

(b) In operative paragraph 8, the words "under the terms of" were replaced with the words "for reasons enumerated in";

(c) In operative paragraph 17, the words "through bilateral agreements" were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 20, the words "developing countries and" were added after the words "in particular".

31. At the 29th meeting, on 8 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out further revisions to the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 10, the words "in order" were replaced with a comma;

(b) In operative paragraph 12, the words "adoption of" were replaced with the words "conclusion on";

(c) In operative paragraph 18, the words "and to fulfil" were replaced with the words "as well as".

32. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.20, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution VI).

33. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore and the Sudan (see A/C.3/51/SR.29).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

34. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994 and, in particular, 50/151 of 21 December 1995,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion of the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996,

Aware that involuntary, mass displacement, in addition to the human suffering involved, imposes significant economic and social burdens and may affect security and stability at the regional level,

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that, while the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves, the serious challenges cannot be met by the limited resources and experience of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States individually,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference[12] should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in

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[12] A/51/341, annex.

this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Welcoming the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation that made the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself a success,

Noting and reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[13] and its 1967 Protocol,[14]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[15]

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Switzerland and other host States that made it possible to convene the Regional Conference and a series of preparatory meetings, as well as those States which made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

3. Welcomes the Declaration and Programme of Action as adopted by the Conference on 31 May 1996;[12]

4. Also welcomes the innovative approach and close cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in initiating and supporting a multilateral constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned that has brought agreement on guidelines for practical action;

5. Expresses its satisfaction with the work of the Conference, which laid down a solid foundation for further action by countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and States concerned and relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

6. Underlines the urgent need to address the problems of those displaced, implement measures to prevent situations leading to further involuntary population displacement and effectively manage other types of migratory flows in the region;

7. Urges all the States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

8. Invites all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

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[13] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[14] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[15] A/51/341.

9. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underlying the Programme of Action and to ensuring progress in its implementation;

10. Recognizes that implementation of the Programme of Action requires additional financial resources, and calls for international cooperation in order to assist the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of migration and related matters;

11. Welcomes the readiness of States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

12. Invites international financial and other institutions to contribute to financing projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

13. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and invites the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to continue to steer in close coordination the ongoing and future activities ensuring progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. Calls upon all relevant United Nations organs, bodies and organizations to promote, within their respective mandates, the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference;

15. Recognizes the important role to be played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourages the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and international organizations to strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and to involve them actively in the follow-up to the Conference;

16. Reaffirms the necessity for effective follow-up mechanisms of the Conference;

17. Highly appreciates the initial steps undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action;

18. Invites the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to demonstrate similar initiative in contributing to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

19. Welcomes the Joint Operational Strategy for 1996-2000 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent

States, which outlines the practical dimensions of implementing the results of the Conference;

20. Emphasizes the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

21. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to take into account those elements of the Programme of Action that are relevant to his mandate;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the measures taken and proposed and on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

23. Decides to continue examination of this question at its fifty-second session under the appropriate item of the agenda.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/149 of 21 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[16] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[17]

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the ongoing process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in some parts of Africa,

Taking note of resolution CM/Res.1653 (LXIV) on refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the

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[16] A/51/367.

[17] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/51/12).

Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,[18]

Recalling the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive both to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to solutions, especially voluntary repatriation,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Noting with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes region and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[16] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[17]

2. Notes with concern that the effects of political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters such as drought have led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

3. Expresses deep concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for security, long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

4. Expresses its appreciation and strong support for those African Governments and local populations which, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

5. Expresses concern at instances where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by the unlawful expulsion or refoulement, or the threat to life, physical security, integrity, dignity and the well-being of refugees;

6. Commends the Governments concerned for their sacrifices in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other durable solutions;

7. Expresses its gratitude to the international community, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in particular, for the

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[18] See A/51/524, annex I.

humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons as well as to the countries of asylum;

8. Welcomes the strengthening of cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization of African Unity at all levels, and urges the two organizations, in conjunction with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation in a dignified and orderly manner, as well as addressing the root causes of the refugee problem and working out modalities for a lasting solution;

9. Reiterates that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

10. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other concerned entities to intensify protection activities by, inter alia, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

11. Appeals to Governments, United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

12. Appeals to the international community to respond positively to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

13. Commends the Governments of the Great Lakes and West African regions and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the region;

14. Encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

15. Welcomes the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with host Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community, in addressing the negative impacts of large-scale refugee influxes and concentrations on the environment and ecosystems of countries of asylum;

16. Notes with satisfaction the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the cooperation and collaboration of many countries hosting refugees, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

17. Expresses its concern about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep its programmes under review in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

18. Urges the international community to continue to fund the general refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa;

19. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system on the basis of the experience of the emergency in the Great Lakes region, and to continue to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Africa until a permanent solution can be found;

20. Calls upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

21. Requests all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

22. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/221 of 2 May 1996 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 11 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[19] and the note verbale dated 12 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[20]

1. Decides to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from fifty-one to fifty-three States;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its organizational session of 1997.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994 and 50/150 of 21 December 1995,

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable and at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault and other abuses and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting the revised Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1994 and the development of an emergency kit to facilitate coordination and to enhance the

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[19] E/1996/20.

[20] E/1996/21.

quality of responses to the needs of unaccompanied minors by the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors, and welcoming its effort in reunifying family members of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the Office of the High Commissioner towards the reunification of the family members of refugees,

Noting the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[21] and the 1951 Convention[22] and the 1967 Protocol[23] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[24]

2. Expresses its deep concern at the continued plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. Expresses the hope that adequate resources will be provided for programmes of identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate into its programmes policies that aim to prevent refugee family separation, conscious of the importance of family unity;

5. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

6. Urges the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and

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[21] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[22] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[23] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[24] A/51/329.

non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

7. Condemns all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment in military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

8. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/170 of 23 December 1994 and other pertinent resolutions[25] relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and of international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[26] and the previous reports[27] containing the comments and views of Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations,

Noting that a number of Governments have not yet submitted their comments with regard to the above-mentioned resolutions,

Noting with deep concern the growing scale of humanitarian emergencies involving widespread suffering, loss of life and uprootedness,

Noting the corresponding increase in the burden on the international community to provide emergency relief for protracted periods while durable

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[25] Resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985, 42/120 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987, 43/129 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988, 45/101 and 45/102 of 14 December 1990 and 47/106 of 16 December 1992.

[26] A/51/454.

[27] A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524, A/47/352 and A/49/577 and Corr.1.

solutions remain evasive, to the detriment of stability and security and thereby adversely affecting economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to ensure respect for and promotion of the principles and norms relating to humanitarian emergencies,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. Urges Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to submit their comments and views to the Secretary-General regarding the promotion of a new international humanitarian order;

3. Requests Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of special concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action;

4. Invites the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and strengthen further its activities in cooperation with the governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned, including local and regional capacity-building to respond to humanitarian problems and the search for more effective measures to increase international cooperation in the humanitarian field;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, in order to report in a comprehensive manner on the progress made by them to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[28] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its forty-seventh session,[29]

Recalling its resolution 50/152 of 21 December 1995,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention[30] and the 1967 Protocol[31] relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular their

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[28] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/51/12).

[29] Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/51/12/Add.1).

[30] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[31] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

implementation in a manner fully compatible with the object and purpose of those instruments, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty-two States are now parties to one or both instruments,

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

Paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered or lost their lives in the course of their duties, and emphasizing the urgent need for effective measures to ensure the security of staff engaged in humanitarian operations,

Distressed at the widespread violations of the principle of non-refoulement and of the rights of refugees, in some cases resulting in the loss of their lives, and seriously disturbed at reports indicating that large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers have been subjected to refoulement and expulsion in highly dangerous situations,

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees, and the need for States to cooperate fully with the Office in order to facilitate the effective exercise of that function;

2. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to accede or succeed to and to implement fully the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and relevant regional refugee instruments, as applicable, for the protection of refugees;

3. Reiterates that everyone, without distinction of any kind, has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, and calls upon all States to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees and to respect scrupulously the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, which is not subject to derogation;

4. Urges States to ensure access, consistent with relevant international and regional instruments, for all asylum-seekers to fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status and the granting of asylum to eligible persons;

5. Deplores the fact that in certain situations refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner have been subjected to armed attack, murder, rape and other violations of or threats to their personal security and other fundamental rights, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and the humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian norms;

6. Emphasizes the importance of ensuring access by the Office of the High Commissioner to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern in order to enable it to carry out its protection functions in an effective manner;

expresses deep concern at conditions, in a number of countries or regions, that seriously impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection, and calls upon States to take all necessary measures to ensure such access and to ensure the security of staff engaged in humanitarian operations;

7. Reiterates its support for the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in exploring further measures to ensure international protection to all who need it, consistent with fundamental protection principles reflected in international instruments, and supports the High Commissioner in continuing further consultations and discussions in this regard;

8. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and strengthen its efforts for the protection of women having a well-founded fear of persecution, and calls upon States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and ensures that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol;

9. Urges all States and relevant United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, and welcomes in particular the ongoing efforts of the Office to pursue whenever possible opportunities to promote conditions conducive to the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation;

10. Underlines the interrelationship between protection and solutions as well as the desirability of prevention, including through respect for human rights and the implementation of relevant instruments and standards, and emphasizes the responsibility of States to resolve refugee situations and to ensure conditions that do not compel people to flee in fear, to uphold the institution of asylum, to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation, to take steps to meet essential humanitarian needs and to cooperate with countries on whom the large-scale presence of refugees weighs most heavily;

11. Acknowledges the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community to the problems of refugees and displaced persons, including addressing root causes, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, providing effective protection and achieving durable solutions;

12. Emphasizes the value of comprehensive, regional approaches in which the High Commissioner has played a significant part both in countries of origin and countries of asylum, encourages States, in coordination and cooperation with each other and with international organizations, if applicable, to consider adopting protection-based comprehensive approaches to particular problems of displacement, and endorses, in this connection, the conclusion on comprehensive and regional approaches within a protection framework adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-seventh session;

13. Recalls that the Office of the High Commissioner may be called upon by the appropriate organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned to extend its assistance to other groups, such as internally displaced persons, recognizing that such involvement may contribute to the prevention or mitigation of refugee situations, yet emphasizing that activities on behalf of internally displaced persons must not undermine the institution of asylum, including the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution;

14. Reiterates the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing refugee situations, recognizes that the effective promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through institutions that sustain the rule of law, justice and accountability, are essential for States to fulfil their humanitarian responsibilities in reintegrating returning refugees, and, in this connection, calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate and at the request of the Government concerned, to strengthen its support of national efforts at legal and judicial capacity-building, where necessary, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

15. Also reiterates that development and rehabilitation assistance is essential in addressing some of the causes of refugee situations and in the context of the development of prevention strategies;

16. Reaffirms that voluntary repatriation is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and dignity;

17. Reiterates the right of all persons to return to their country, and emphasizes in this regard the prime responsibility of countries of origin for establishing conditions that allow voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity, and, in recognition of the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have sought asylum but have been determined not to be refugees;

18. Encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons, as part of her statutory function of providing international protection and of seeking preventive action, as well as her responsibilities under General Assembly resolutions 3274 (XXIV) of 10 December 1974 and 31/36 of 30 November 1976, and calls upon States to assist the High Commissioner in fulfilling her responsibilities and to consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[32] and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness;[33]

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[32] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 360, No. 5158.

[33] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

19. Reaffirms that the Inter-agency Standing Committee is the primary mechanism for inter-agency decisions on system-wide policy issues relating to humanitarian assistance, for formulating a coherent and timely response to major disasters and complex emergencies and for inter-agency decisions of an operational nature, and calls on members of the Standing Committee to continue to examine as a matter of priority options and proposals to improve its functioning;

20. Calls upon all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States that have received large numbers of refugees, in particular developing countries and those with limited resources, and to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effects on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.